



West Malling

CE Primary School & The McGinty SRP

Old Cricket Ground, Norman Road, West Malling, Kent ME19 6RL Headteacher Mr David Rye MSc PGCE NPQH

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19th December 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week has been full of festive excitement with KS2 travelling to The Hazlitt Theatre in Maidstone to watch the pantomime, the choir carol singing in Tesco, Christmas jumper day, school Christmas dinner and Christmas bingo. We also had a wonderful Christmas Service at St. Mary's on Wednesday, where we celebrated the Learners of the Term as well as sharing the Christmas Story. I think the staff choir have just about recovered our nerves after our debut performance!

Earlier in the week we also had great fun as everyone participated in the 'Santa Dash' – a fun run round the school site with exercise stations manned by Year 6 children. Thank you to Year 6 for getting us out and active. This afternoon everyone will head into the hall as the whole school comes together to end the term with a Christingle service led by Year 6. This is always the perfect way to finish – a moment to pause, reflect and be thankful ahead of the fun to come. I hope that amongst the excitement of the next two weeks you are all able to find a few moments of peace and calm to remember that among the hardship and difficulties we all see and feel, there is also an infinite amount of love and support.

This has been a very long, hard term for both children and adults alike. In recognition of this, the Tenax Schools Trust has worked with its schools to set slightly different term dates for the **2026-2027 academic year**. For the first time, this will see us have a two-week break in October 2026. The hope is that this will support the wellbeing of both children and staff. Term dates for children are therefore as follows:

Term 1: Tuesday 1st September 2026 to Friday 16th October 2026

Term 2: Monday 2nd November 2026 to Friday 18th December 2026

Term 3: Monday 4th January 2027 to Friday 12th February 2027

Term 4: Monday 22nd February 2027 to Thursday 25th March 2027

Term 5: Monday 12th April 2027 to Friday 28th May 2027

Term 6: Monday 7th June 2027 to Thursday 22nd July 2027

Our INSET days, when the school will be closed to pupils for staff training, fall outside of these dates, with the exception of **Friday 25th September**. Please make a note that the school will be closed to pupils on this date.

May the blessings of the Christmas season be with you all, and I look forward to seeing you all again on Monday 5th January.

Mr Rye
Head teacher

